Numb. 26.

THE South-Carolina Gazette.

Containing the freſheſt Advices Foreign and Domeſtick.

From Saturday, *June* 24, to Saturday, *July* 1, 1732.

A Letter *from a Merchant in* Jamaica *to his Friend at* London, *giving an Account of the preſent State and Condition of that Iſland.*

SIR,

IN the laſt Seſſion of our Aſſembly, the declining Condition of this Iſland was taken into Conſideration, with Regard to the low Value of its Produce, which daily declining, greatly diſcourages the preſent Settlers, and thoſe that have Eſtates, and hath for ſome Years paſt intirely put a Stop to the further Improvement or Settlement of this large, fertile, & valuable Iſland; ſo that for ſeven Years laſt paſt, inſtead of increaſing in the Number of our Inhabitants, we have decreaſed at leaſt one Third, which renders the great Charges we are at for the neceſſary Support of the Government the more difficult, and almoſt inſupportable to the few remaining Inhabitants. To ſpeak the Truth of our Condition, if ſome ſpeedy Remedy is not found out, and ſome new Encouragement given, I expect to ſee in a few Years this Iſland left only in the Hands of a few Proprietors of Sugar-Works, who do not amount to above 300, and thoſe we compute one with another employ each 5 white Men, which is but 1500; all our other Inhabitants, and thoſe that have other ſmall Settlements, are going off daily. The Proprietors of Sugar-Works, (many of whom are in *Great Britain*) muſt ſtand by and keep their Intereſt in it till the laſt, as their Eſtates conſiſt of great Buildings, Plantations, Utenſils, large Tracts of Land well cultivated, great Quantities of Cattle, which if they remove their Slaves from, to go to other Countries, will be of no Value but a dead Loſs, and ſo two Thirds of their Eſtates ſunk; this Reaſon will oblige the Sugar Planters to ſtand it the longeſt; and God knows that is a ſhort Space enough, conſidering the diſmal Proſpect they have of the declining Condition of their Eſtates, the Increaſe of our Rebel Negroes, and the Loſs of our Trade. We find all the European Markets, except *Great Britain* ſupply'd by the *French* and *Dutch* Sugar Colonies, & even a great part of the *Britiſh* Empire likewiſe, as *Ireland*, which hath for ſeveral Years been ſupply'd with *French* Sugar; and the *Britiſh* northern Colonies, which now ſwarm with People (and are a daily Drain to the Sugar Colonies) ſupply themſelves with Sugar and Molaſſes from the *French* and *Dutch*; ſo that all the Conſumption of the *Britiſh* Colonies (by the Reſtriction laid on their Trade) is reduced to *Great Britain* only; and conſequently what Sugars are made more than is required for that Purpoſe, can be of little other Uſe than to lower the Price and Value of even that.

Theſe unhappy Circumſtances have ſtruck ſuch a Damp on the Inhabitants of this Iſland, that nothing is heard but Preparations for the Northern Colonies; and *Carolina* begins to encourage great Numbers to adventure there, foraſmuch as by the great Goodneſs of his Majeſty, and the Wiſdom of the Parliament, the Enumeration of Rice is taken off, and they have Liberty to ſend it to foreign Markets directly, which will bring ſuch a flow of Riches to that Colony, as will help, I fear, to be very much the Downfal of the *Britiſh Weſt India* Sugar Colonies, except ſome ſuch Encouragement be given to them: And it is to be hoped his Majeſty's great Goodneſs will induce him to recommend the Conſideration hereof to the Wiſdom of his Parliament; and that they will have ſuch a Regard to the Welfare

fare of *Britain*, as to ſupport its principal Members, the Sugar Colonies, which employ ſuch vaſt Numbers of their Fellow Subjects in their Mother Country, and are a great ſupport to the Figure they now make in Trade, by the Employment of Ships and Men, this Iſland alone employing yearly at leaſt 300 ſail of Veſſels and 5000 Mariners; and conſidering the advantagious Situation of it in Time of Peace for Trade to *New Spain*, and in caſe of a War, all our *Weſt India* Colonies muſt be loſt without this Iſland, they having no Harbour or Ports that his Majeſty could keep a Squadron in, to command theſe Seas and protect them; and in caſe of bad Weather, which always happens amongſt them once a Year, theſe Veſſels that would be diſtreſſed, muſt put into an Enemy's Port or periſh in the Sea, as we have no other *Britiſh* Settlement to Leeward off *St. Chriſtopher's* but this Iſland. Theſe Particulars, and many others too tedious to enumerate, being duly conſidered, I am ſure there is a Neceſſity of doing ſomething immediately to encourage the preſent Inhabitants to remain in the Country, and others to come; or I fear, in caſe of War, it will be ſo weak as to fall an eaſy Prey to our potent Neighbours the *French* at *Hiſpaniola*, who, by the great Encouragement from their Mother Country, are within a few Years grown ſo numerous in their Settlements and Inhabitants, as gives a diſmal Proſpect to us of this Iſland.

One Thing I am ſurprized never was conſidered among the Means thought of for preventing the Uſe as well as running *French* Brandy, which is the leſſening the Exciſe on Rum, the Produce of our own Sugar Colonies, which, were it uſed inſtead of *French* Brandy, would ſave the Nation as much ready Caſh as goes out of it for the Purchaſe thereof. Rum is the principal Commodity of this Iſland next to Sugar, and on which the Planters very much depend; it generally ſells here from 18d. to 2s. *per* Gallon, ſo that 100 Punches of 110 Gallons each here, is about 1000 l. this Iſland Currency, or 700 l. Sterling Value; that Quantity, on Importation to *Great Britain*, is to pay a Duty and Exciſe to the Crown of about 2400 l. Sterling, without any Drawback on Exportation, beſides 6 d. *per* Gallon Freight, and the Loſs of Casks, Leakage, &c. ſo that the Planter at laſt has a mere Trifle for his Commodity, and what is worſe, we have no Vent for Rum at the Northern Colonies, for they buy *French* Molaſſes ſo cheap (which without ſuch a Vent would be a Loſs to the *French*) that they furniſh themſelves, and export large Quantities to other Countries; ſo that our Rum that uſed to contribute greatly to ſupport the contingent Charges of Sugar-Works, by the heavy Duty, Exciſe, and Loſs of the Northern Plantations Trade, will become of little other Value than to be given to Servants & Negroes; whereas, was half the Exciſe to be taken off, it would greatly increaſe the Revenue in *Great Britain*, and be a more effectual Method of preventing the Uſe of *French* Brandy than any yet practiſed, and would be no Prejudice to *Engliſh* Spirits, nor no Ways leſſen the Quantity uſually made. And ſure I am, it highly becomes the Wiſdom of the Nation to encourage the Colonies Abroad, each of whoſe Inhabitants, one with another, gives Bread to three (at leaſt) of their Fellow Subjects in their Mother Country, I may ſay thoſe of this Iſland do ſo treble that Number. Now, could we but obtain the Liberty of exporting our Sugars to Foreign Markets, on paying the Duty it leaves in *Great Britain* upon Exportation, with other Encouragements, this Iſland might be rendered the greateſt in *America*, and would become much more Advantagious to *Great Britain*, in taking off more of its Manufactures, and employing a greater Number of Shipping and Sailors, in Proportion to the Increaſe of its Produce. For I aſſure you, that four Fifths of the valuable and improveable Land in this Iſland is not ſettled or cultivated, and lies waſte as a Receptacle only for our rebellious Runaway Negroes. What I have ſaid is ſufficient to ſhew the infinite Value of this Iſland, its preſent miſerable Circumſtances, and the Neceſſity of ſome immediate Relief and Encouragement, to prevent the impending Ruin of the Inhabitants, and the utter Loſs of this ineſtimable Jewel in the *Britiſh* Diadem. *I am*, &c.

To the KING's *moſt Excellent Majeſty.*

The humble Repreſentation of the Preſident and Council, and General Aſſembly of the Province of New-York.

Moſt Gracious Sovereign,

WE Your Majeſty's moſt dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Preſident and Council, and General Aſſembly of your Majeſty's Colony of *New-York*, beg Leave to repreſent, That

With Grief and Concern we have heard of the Monopoly aimed at by the Sugar Colonies, which, if obtained, will, we conceive, tend to the

the Ruin of this Colony, and be prejudicial to the Trade and Navigation of *Great Britain*. For

There is imported yearly into, and consumed in this Colony, a very large Quantity of the Woollen Manufacture of *Great Britain*, for our Cloathing and Preservation from the excessive Cold of our Winters; and so great is our Consumption of those Commodities, that we have Reason to believe the whole Sugar Colonies (excepting *Jamaica*, on Account of the *Spanish* Trade) do not consume the like Quantity; and should we be disabled to pay for that Manufacture, we must be reduced to Nakedness, or to make our own Cloathing.

The Product of this, and the neighbouring Colonies of *New-Jersey* and *Pennsylvania*, is Provisions, Horses, and Lumber, which are exported to the *British* and Foreign Sugar Colonies, and in Exchange for them, are had Monies, Rum, Sugars, Molasses, Cocoa, Indigo, Cotton, Wool, &c. whereof the Rum and Molasses are chiefly consumed in this Colony, and the Monies and other Merchandize are mostly apply'd to make good the Balance of our Trade, to *Great Britain*, and so a great part of that Balance is paid in Money, that we have Reason to believe that all the *British* Sugar Colonies together (except *Jamaica*) do not import so much Silver and Gold into *Great Britain* as this single Colony.

We are well assured, that the *British* Sugar Colonies cannot take off the one Half of the Provisions which this and the other two Bread Colonies do export, nor are they able to supply the Northern Colonies with the Rum and Molasses there consumed, without vastly diminishing the Quantity of Sugar which they now make; and tho' we be not by express Words in the Monopoly aimed at, restrained from exporting our Provisions to the Foreign Sugar Colonies, yet the restraining us from taking any Part of their Product in Exchange, will as effectually do it.

Wherefore we have Reason to apprehend, that if the Monopoly aimed at be obtained, our Product now exported to the Foreign Sugar Colonies, will be as lost to us, and that we shall have little more from the *British* Sugar Colonies for all our Provisions, that they can consume, than the Rum, Molasses and Sugar, which we want to consume among ourselves, seeing the Glut of our Product, with them must greatly lower the Price thereof; and the great Demand of Rum and Molasses, must vastly enhance the Price of them, and disable us to pay for the *British* Manufactures we have already had and owe for, and to pay for any more; must diminish the Consumption of the *British* Woollen Manufacture, and the Navigation now employ'd in bringing it to us, and in carrying our Product to the Foreign Sugar Colonies, & in carrying what is got in Exchange for it to *Britain*; must diminish the Quantity of Sugars in the *British* Sugar Colonies, and enhance the Price thereof so much, that *Britain* will probably be disabled to export any Part of it.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

We implore your most Sacred Majesty, the Father of all your Subjects, who has the Care and Prosperity of all of them equally at Heart, and who will be far from countenancing any Endeavours to make the one Part of them the Slaves and Bondmen of another, with whatever specious Pretences it may be aimed at, to have Pity and Compassion upon us, your poor, but most loyal and dutiful Subjects of these Bread Colonies, upon the Merchants of *Great Britain*, who get their Living by the *British* Trade with us, and to grant us your most gracious Protection against this Attempt, which, in its Consequences, would tend, we humbly conceive, to deprive them of their just Debts and future Support, and to cut us off from being of any other Use to our Mother Country, than to be the Bondmen and Slaves of her Sugar Colonies, by confining us to them for the Vent of the Produce of our Industry, and in Consequence obliging us to take what Price for it they please, and to give what Price they please for what we have in Exchange for them.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Jan. 8.

PUblick Rejoicing have been made here 3 Days successively, for the Cessation of Arms agreed upon between the King of *Persia* and the Bashaw of *Babylon*. And 'tis even said, that Preliminaries of a Treaty of Peace sent hither by him, have been approved by the Sultan, and that he signed them, and sent them back yesterday. This has so transported this City, that more compleat Rejoicings were never seen here without the least Disorder, which is extreamly pleasing to the Grand Seignior and his Ministers. On the 4th Inst. an extraordinary Divan was held in the Seraglio, after which the *Persian* Ambassador was set at Liberty, who had been in Prison several Months

Petersburg, Feb. 13. N. S. We have Advice that Prince *Trubetskoi*, who commands at *Moscow* had discovered a Conspiracy form'd by several Persons of Distinction, to hinder the Execution of her *Czarian* Majesty's Scheme for the future Succession to the Throne. And that he had caused the most suspected to be seized and taken into Custody.

LONDON, *March* 11.

They write from *Bicester* in *Oxfordshire*, that one *Aldworth* who held an Estate of 30 l. *per Ann.* during the Life of one *Carpenter*, which was his only Support and Maintenance; happening one Night to quarrel with the said *Carpenter*, among other Terms of Reproach called him Cuckold, which so enraged the latter, that he solemnly vowed Revenge; which he effected in a very extraordinary Manner, for he went to a Gentlemans Pond in the Neighbourhood, and there drowned himself, in order to deprive the other of his Annuity.

**** *Two Letters are come to Hand, one signed* Mennisens, *and the other* Spunger, *which will be consider'd of.*